

THE DRAGON'S PEARL (pages 24–35)

Cause and Effect

Events in a story are linked by cause and effect. The **cause** of an event is why the event happens. An **effect** is what happens as a result. Sometimes words such as *because* and *when* signal causes, and words such as *so* and *therefore* signal effects.

Fill in the boxes to show cause and effect in *The Dragon's Pearl*. Underline any signal words in the sentences.

Cause		Effect
1. Xiao Sheng worked all day cutting grass.	→	As a result, he earned _____ _____.
2. Because of _____, _____.	→	Xiao Sheng had to travel farther away to find good grass to cut.
3. As Xiao Sheng dug up the magical green grass,	→	he _____ _____.
4. When the pearl _____, _____.	→	the rice jar became full to the brim.
5. In order to save the pearl from the robbers,	→	Xiao Sheng _____ _____.
6. _____ _____.	→	And so, Xiao Sheng changed into a dragon.
7. The dragon Xiao Sheng breathed huge clouds into the air.	→	As a result, _____ _____.
8. In order to honor and thank the dragon,	→	the villagers _____ _____.
9. Whenever _____, _____.	→	Xiao Sheng's mother would smile and remember her son.

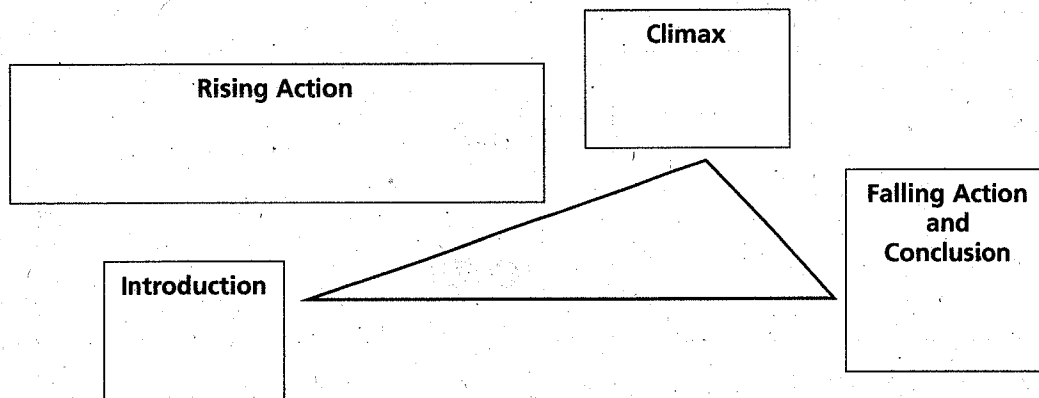
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Plot

The **plot** is the series of events that make up a story. Most plots have four parts, as shown in the diagram below.

Write the letter of each event from *The Dragon's Pearl* in the correct box in the diagram. A box may have more than one letter.

- a. Xiao Sheng is a good-natured, hard-working boy who cuts grass to sell.
- b. A drought forces Xiao Sheng to travel greater distances to find green grass.
- c. Xiao Sheng finds magic grass and decides to plant it near his home.
- d. While digging the grass, he finds a beautiful pearl.
- e. The grass dies, but the pearl causes Xiao Sheng's food and money to overflow.
- f. When robbers come to his house, Xiao Sheng accidentally swallows the pearl.
- g. With the pearl burning inside him, Xiao Sheng rushes to the river to quench his thirst.
- h. Xiao Sheng changes into a dragon before his mother's eyes.
- i. The dragon causes rain to fall, ending the drought.
- j. Through many signs, the dragon shows that he will watch over the village forever.



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Hyphenated Compounds

A **compound word** is two words joined to form a new word with its own meaning. A compound word may be written as one word. Sometimes a hyphen (-) is used between the two parts.

- A. Circle the compound word(s) in each of these sentences about *The Dragon's Pearl*. Then write the two words of each compound on the lines below.

1. Good-natured Xiao Sheng traveled over the countryside to find the best grass.

_____ + _____ _____ + _____

2. The rose-colored pearl caused the near-empty jar to fill with rice.

_____ + _____ _____ + _____

3. The drought-stricken villagers shouted with joy when the cloud-breathing dragon brought rain.

_____ + _____ _____ + _____

4. At the riverbank, a dragonfly reminded Xiao Sheng's mother of her son.

_____ + _____ _____ + _____

- B. Choose words from **Column A** and combine them with words from **Column B** to make compound words. Write each compound word on the line next to its definition. Only two are hyphenated compounds.

Column A

far

some

sun

near-

life-

Column B

giving

empty

away

where

set

1. time when the sun goes below the horizon

2. distant; not close

3. necessary for being alive

4. not full; a very small amount

5. a place or location

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Words to Know

drought **scorched** **craved** **pierced** **flourished**

A. Circle the letter of the word or phrase that means the same as the boldfaced word:

1. The storm ended the ten-day **drought**.

- a. argument b. time of no rain c. circus

2. I walked barefoot on the hot sand, and now my **scorched** feet are in pain.

- a. burned b. smelly c. sun-tanned

3. After three days of being sick, I **craved** chocolate ice cream.

- a. sold b. got sick of c. wanted badly

4. Images of children in the war **pierced** the hearts of many adults.

- a. saved b. touched deeply c. sang loudly

5. Because we had plenty of rain this year, the avocado trees **flourished**.

- a. were burned b. did not grow c. grew very well

B. Match each word on the left with its definition. Write the letter of the correct definition next to the word it defines.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ 1. drought | a. touched someone deeply |
| _____ 2. scorched | b. grew extremely well |
| _____ 3. craved | c. time when no rain falls |
| _____ 4. pierced | d. burned on the outside |
| _____ 5. flourished | e. strongly desired something |

Writing Activity

Imagine that you are an advice columnist. Explain to Xiao Sheng what you think he should have done with the pearl. Use at least one of the **Words to Know**.